

Message Text

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UNCLAS VIENNA 1315

DEPARTMENT FOR BRUCE FLATIN EUR/CE

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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF "AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
DOMINICK STORY"

REF: VIENNA 1200, 1220, 1278

1. SUMMARY: "KLEINE ZEITUNG" (GRAZ), AUSTRIA'S LARGEST
PROVINCIAL DAILY, GAVE FRONT PAGE HEADLINES TO ADDITIONAL
COVERAGE OF "AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE DOMINICK STORY" IN ITS
FEBRUARY 13 EDITION. HEADLINE "KREISKY: NO FOREIGN FLIGHTS
OVER AUSTRIA" AND SUBHEAD "'LUE' (DEFENSE MINISTER LUETGEN-
DORF) KNOWS OF NATO ORDERS" HERALDED LENGTHY NEWS STORY
PEGGED TO COMMENTS FROM HIGH AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. TRANSLATED EXCERPTS AS FOLLOWS: "THE ATTEMPT OF THE
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN BERN TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SWISS
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THE NERVE OF OUR NEUTRALITY. CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY TOLD THE 'KLEINE ZEITUNG': 'I CANNOT TALK ABOUT DETAILS, BUT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO ALL SIDES IN DUE COURSE THAT WE WOULD BE MUCH AGAINST' (FOREIGN MILITARY PLANES VIOLATING AUSTRIAN AIR SPACE). DEFENSE MINISTER KARL F. LUETGENDORF KNOWS ABOUT NATO ORDERS NOT TO FLY OVER THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES... DURING THE LEBANON CRISIS IN 1958, AMERICAN TRANSPORT PLANES TAKING OFF FROM THEIR NATO BASES IN GERMANY FLEW OVER AUSTRIAN TERRITORY TO THE MIDDLE EAST. (LUETGENDORF) ASSURED THE 'KLEINE ZEITUNG' IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY THAT NOTHING OF THIS KIND HAS HAPPENED AGAIN IN THE LAST 17 YEARS ... ASKED BY THE 'KLEINE ZEITUNG' ABOUT PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY AUSTRIA, THE CHANCELLOR (KREISKY) SAID THAT OUR COUNTRY IS GOING TO PROTECT ITSELF 'TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY.' (HE SAID THAT) 'THOSE CONCERNED' HAVE BEEN WARNED 'MUCH MORE PLAINLY THAN FORMERLY BY WALDHEIM' (WHEN HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER). FOREIGN MINISTER ERICH BIELKA-KARLTREU TOLD US YESTERDAY: 'I HAVE IMMEDIATELY ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO FIND OUT WHAT IS REALLY THE MATTER WITH THIS ALLEGED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. I WAS AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND FOR FIVE YEARS, AND I CANNOT REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE NEUTRAL SWISS ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS WITH THE AMERICANS.' ... LUETGENDORF SHOWED HIMSELF OPTIMISTIC: 'I KNOW FOR SURE THAT THERE ARE NATO ORDERS NOT TO FLY OVER AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND, NOT EVEN IN A REAL MILITARY EMERGENCY.'" HUMES

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